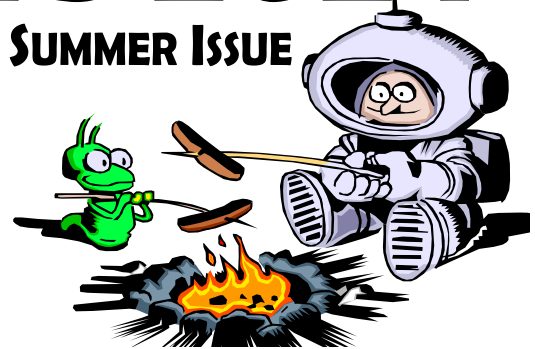
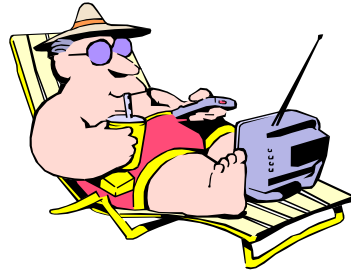




# ASFACTS 2024

## JULY "HEAT & RAIN" SUMMER ISSUE



### 2023 NEBULA WINNERS NAMED

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) announced winners of the 2023 Nebula Awards at the 59th Annual Nebula Banquet on June 6 during the 2024 SFWA Nebula Conference held in Pasadena, CA:

NOVEL: *The Saint of Bright Doors* by Vajra Chandrasekera, NOVELLA: "Linghun" by Ai Jiang, NOVELETTE: "The Year Without Sunshine" by Naomi Kritzer, SHORT STORY: "Tantie Merle and the Farmhand 4200" by R.S.A Garcia, ANDRE NORTON AWARD: *To Shape a Dragon's Breath* by Moniquill Blackgoose, RAY BRADBURY AWARD: *Barbie*, and GAME WRITING: *Baldur's Gate 3*.

Additional honors and awards included the SFWA Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award to Susan Mary Cooper, the SFWA Infinity Award to Tanith Lee, the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award to Jennell Jaquays, and the Kevin O'Donnell, Jr. Service to SFWA Award to James Hosek.

### ROGERS/DENNING TO HOST PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers & Scott Denning are upholding a local fannish tradition by hosting the Bubonicon 55 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, August 22, at their home in Bernalillo – located at 909 Highway 313.

The easiest way to get there is north on I-25 to exit 242 east (Rio Rancho's backdoor and the road to Cuba). At Highway 313 (N. Camino del Pueblo just past Walgreens), turn right to head north. You will pass Bernalillo High School and the closed Country Store on your right. Look for a cow crossing sign and Mile Marker 9. The house - with a mummy on the gate - is on the west side of the road. Please park your car on the shoulder of Highway 313 or in the mowed field to the north.

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, & check out the 2024 t-shirt with artwork by Dale Ray Deforest.

Please bring snacks & drinks to share. Also welcome: plates, napkins, cups and ice. As with any hosted party, please keep the house clean and in good shape!

### 2024 LOCUS AWARDS WINNERS

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced the winners in each category of the 2024 Locus Awards on June 22 during the Locus Awards Weekend. Henry Lien MCed the awards ceremony with Cory Doctorow as special guest. Additional weekend events included readings and panels with leading authors.

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *System Collapse* by Martha Wells, FANTASY NOVEL: *Witch King* by Martha Wells, HORROR NOVEL: *A House with Good Bones* by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), YOUNG ADULT NOVEL: *Promises Stronger Than Darkness* by Charlie Jane Anders, FIRST NOVEL: *The Saint of Bright Doors* by Vajra Chandrasekera, NOVELLA: *Thornhedge* by T. Kingfisher, NOVELETTE: "The Rainbow Bank" by Uchechukwu Nwaka, SHORT STORY: "How to Raise a Kraken in Your Bathtub" by P. Djèlí Clark,

ANTHOLOGY: *Out There Screaming* edited by Jordan Peele & John Joseph Adams, COLLECTION: *White Cat, Black Dog* by Kelly Link, MAGAZINE: *Uncanny*, PUBLISH-

### UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight, July 12:** Author Diana Rowland talks about her writing career and various jobs.
- **August 9:** Bubonicon 55 schedule preview and author Lauren C. Tefteau talks about her forthcoming novella, *A Hunger With No Name...*
- **August 16:** Bubonicon 55 Gofer Organizing Meeting in the Adult Education Room.
- **September 13:** Bubonicon 55 report and possibly a report on the Glasgow Worldcon, too.
- **October 11:** Benjamin Radford talks about Mysterious Menaces and Sinister Syringes. Plus Club Officer Elections & the Halloween *ASFACTS*.
- **November 8:** Unknown! We're working on it.
- **December 13:** Holiday Party Gathering with Potluck! With Film Shorts, and maybe a Cook-Off. Plus the annual issue of *SithFacts*.

**Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to** — 2018 Cardenas Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwrcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April/May, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE: Sunday, October 6.**  
**Club Officers:** Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Eric Klammer, Moderator. Marian Skupski, Alternator. Perry Rodent, con mascot. **B'con Con Chair:** Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

ER: Tor, EDITOR: Neil Clarke, ARTIST: John Picacio, NON-FICTION: *Space Crone* by Ursula K. Le Guin, ILLUSTRATED AND ART BOOK: *The Culture: The Drawings* by Iain M. Banks, and SPECIAL AWARD 2024 – FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT & CAREER: Jeanne Cavelos and the Odyssey Writing Workshop.

## FIRST HUGO TROPHY AUCTIONED

The first Hugo Award trophy, presented to Forrest J Ackerman by Isaac Asimov at the 1953 Worldcon, was put up for sale by Hindman Auctions in May 2024. The Worldcon Heritage Organization won the auction with a \$12,350 bid, with the money pledged by fans. The trophy will be added to exhibits showcased at future Worldcons. Hugo Gernsback's 1960 Hugo Award trophy was also auctioned off, going for \$6,985 to an unknown buyer. For more, see the Worldcon Heritage Organization (WHO) website.

## 2024 ROBERT E. HOWARD AWARDS

The REH Foundation announced winners of the 2024 Robert E. Howard Awards on June 9, honoring work that is “substantively devoted to the life and/or work of Robert E. Howard” or that “carries on the spirit and tradition of Robert E. Howard, to better recognize and celebrate his influence on future generations of writers.”

THE ATLANTEAN – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, BOOK: *The Weird Tales Boys* by Stephen Jones, THE VALUSIAN – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, ANTHOLOGY/COLLECTION: *Hither Came Conan* edited by Bob Byrne & Jason M. Waltz, THE COSTIGAN – LITERARY ACHIEVEMENT: *Conan the Barbarian* by Jim Zub, Roberto De La Torre, Dean White & Richard Starkings (Titan Comics), THE HYRKANIAN – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, ESSAY: “The Personal and Literary Influence of Jack London's *The Star Rover* on Robert E. Howard” by Will Oliver,

THE VENARIUM – EMERGING SCHOLAR: Laura A. Schubert for Master's Thesis *The Shadow King of Fantasy: Robert E. Howard*, THE BLACK LOTUS – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, WEB-BASED (TIE): Ståle Gismervik for *The World of Robert E. Howard* website and associated articles, interviews, and resources hosted there, and Gary Romeo for *The L. Sprague de Camp Fan* website and associated reviews and articles, THE RANKIN – ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT: Roberto De la Torre & José Villarrubia for *Conan the Barbarian* (Titan Comics), THE BLACK RIVER – SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT: Josh Adkins, Luke E. Dodd, and Jon Larson, THE BLACK CIRCLE – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Rob Roehm, The Crom Award: Paul Herman and Dennis McHaney.

For more information, visit the REH Foundation website.

## HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or “gofers” are needed to help out at Bubonicon 55 the weekend of August 23-25 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. We're looking for people who can donate four, seven or even 12 hours of their time dur-

ing the con to help things run smoothly and give committee workers much needed breaks from time to time.

It should be noted that gofers will not be handling money – that's for the Bubonicon staff. We especially need people to check badges/wristbands at doors to meeting rooms, the gaming space and the con suite this year.

Volunteer workers will be in drawings for various goodies liked bookstore gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, Guild Cinema passes, signed books, toys, genre t-shirts, and more!

The Volunteers (Gofers) Organizational Meeting will take place 7:30 pm Friday, August 16, in the Adult Education Room of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Ave NE (between San Mateo and San Pedro, south of Montgomery – park on the backside of the building, and follow the sidewalk to the East-side door). All attending volunteer workers at this meeting will receive some kind of appreciation gift.

If you're willing to help us out, please email coordinator Suzanne Busch at [volunteers@bubonicon.com](mailto:volunteers@bubonicon.com).

## 2024 INDIE BOOK AWARDS WINNERS

The 2024 Indie Book Awards Winners were announced June 20, reported [Locusmag.com](http://Locusmag.com). *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang won in the Fiction category, and *The Golden Mole: and Other Vanishing Treasure* by Katherine Rundell with illustrations by Tayla Baldwin won in the Non-Fiction category. There were several other titles and authors of genre interest on the 2024 shortlist, including *Weyward* by Emilia Hart and *Babel* also by Kuang.

The Indie Book Awards are for paperback books and are “curated exclusively by independent bookshops as part of Independent Bookshop Week (IBW, June 15-22).”

For more information, including the complete list of winners and finalists, see the Booksellers Association site.

## GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 15, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *The Undetectables* by Courtney Smyth. The group then recommends 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group on August 19 either at Jason's Deli or Slice & Dice Pizzeria (Wyoming/Menaul NE).

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Bookstore in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at [mrsansom@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsansom@hotmail.com) or Craig at 266-8905.



ASFACTS, July 2024

# ACTOR DONALD SUTHERLAND DIES

by Mike Barnes & Duane Byrge,  
hollywoodreporter.com 6-20-2024

Donald Sutherland, whose performances in such films as *M\*A\*S\*H*, *Ordinary People* and *The Hunger Games* proved he could portray sinister, sympathetic, comedic or tragic with equal aplomb, died June 20 in Miami after a long illness. He was 88 years old.

Remarkably, Sutherland was never nominated for a competitive Oscar, though the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences made up for the oversight by giving him an honorary statuette in November 2017 at the Governors Awards.

A prodigious actor who often appeared in three to five films a year, the lanky Canadian-born star displayed great range during his six-decade career. His early characters, like crazed/dazed Pvt. Vernon Pinkley in *The Dirty Dozen* (1967), anti-Establishment Army medic Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce in *M\*A\*S\*H* (1970) and hippie tank commander Oddball in *Kelly's Heroes* (1970), were rascally mavericks.

With his distinctive baritone and crystal blue eyes, Sutherland was also effective in provocative roles, like when he played a private eye who falls for a prostitute (his then real-life romantic partner Jane Fonda) in Alan J. Pakula's *Klute* (1971). In Nicolas Roeg's horror thriller *Don't Look Now* (1973), he and Julie Christie tantalized audiences in one particular bedroom scene, one of the more torrid sexual sequences in movie history. And for Federico Fellini, he starred in 1976 as Casanova.

Sutherland said he pursued the part of the despotic President Snow in *The Hunger Games* (2012) after his agent sent him the script. (He would return for all three sequels.)

"I wasn't offered it," he told *GQ* in a 2014 interview. "I like to read scripts, and it captured my passion. I wrote them a letter. The role of the president had maybe a line in the script. Maybe two. Didn't make any difference. I thought it was an incredibly important film, and I wanted to be a part of it. I thought it could wake up an electorate that had been dormant since the '70s.

"I hadn't read the books," he continued. "To be truthful, I was unaware of them. But they showed my letter to the director, Gary Ross, and he thought it'd be a good idea if I did it. He wrote those wonderfully poetic scenes in the rose garden, and they formed the mind and wit of Coriolanus Snow."

The nimble Sutherland also memorably played a man on the run in Philip Kaufman's 1978 remake of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, a pot-smoking professor in *Animal House* (1978), the French painter Paul Gauguin in *The Wolf at the Door* (1986) and a South African schoolteacher who changes his opinion about apartheid in *A Dry White Season* (1989).

Donald McNichol Sutherland was born on July 17, 1935, in Saint John, New Brunswick. He had polio when he was very young and then missed the fourth grade when he had to stay home with rheumatic fever. His father, Frederick, was a salesman and his mother, Dorothy, a mathematics teacher.

When he was 12, the family moved to Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, and he attended Bridgewater High School and then the University of Toronto, where he studied engineering and drama before graduating in 1958.

After working in regional theater in Ontario, he attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art but dropped out after a year, then spent five years practicing his craft in English and Scottish repertory theaters.

While in the play *Spoon River Anthology*, Sutherland was approached by producer Paul Maslansky about performing in *The Castle of the Living Dead* (1964), a low-budget horror film being shot in Italy. He played a soldier, a witch and an old man in that. He then portrayed a lunatic in Hammer Films' *Die! Die! My Darling* (1965), starring Tallulah Bankhead; showed up on British TV on *The Saint* and *The Avengers*; and spoke as a mechanical voice on the phone in *Billion Dollar Brain* (1967), starring Michael Caine as the spy Harry Palmer.

His lengthy film résumé also included *The Split* (1968); Paul Mazursky's *Alex in Wonderland* (1970); *Start the Revolution Without Me* (1970); *Little Murders* (1971), in a reunion with Gould; John Schlesinger's *The Day of the Locust* (1975), a mordant look at Hollywood; *The Eagle Has Landed* (1976); Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900* (1976); *The Eye of the Needle* (1981); *Max Dugan Returns* (1983); Oliver Stone's *JFK* (1991); *A Time to Kill* (1996); as track coach Bill Bowerman in *Without Limits* (1998); Clint Eastwood's *Space Cowboys* (2000); a remake of *Pride & Prejudice* (2005); *American Gun* (2005); *Ask the Dust* (2006); *Man on the Train* (2011); *The Leisure Seeker* (2017); and *The Burnt Orange Heresy* (2020).

Rob Lowe, who co-starred with Sutherland in the TV miniseries *Salem's Lot*, based on the Stephen King novel, offered condolences to his family. He wrote in a post on X that society lost "one of our greatest actors. It was my honor to work with him many years ago, and I will never forget his charisma and ability. If you want a master class in acting, watch him in *Ordinary People*."

In 1995, he won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his performance as a Soviet cop in the HBO telefilm *Citizen X*. He received a Globe for playing Lyndon Johnson's Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford in the 2002 HBO miniseries *Path to War* and starred as an insidious Speaker of the House opposite Geena Davis as the U.S. president in the 2005-06 ABC drama *Commander in Chief*.

More recently, Sutherland found regular TV work on *Dirty Sexy Money*, *The Pillars of the Earth*, *Crossing Lines*, *Ice, Trust* (playing J. Paul Getty), *The Undoing* and *Lawman: Bass Reeves*.

Survivors include his partner/wife since 1972, actress Francine Racette; his four sons, actors Kiefer Sutherland, Rossif Sutherland and Angus Sutherland and CAA executive Roeg Sutherland; daughter Rachel, a veteran Hollywood postproduction supervisor; and four grandchildren.

Sutherland was married to and divorced from actresses Lois Hardwick and Shirley Douglas (the mother of Kiefer and twin Rachel) before he became romantically involved with Racette.



## RWA FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

Romance Writers of America filed for bankruptcy in May 2024 in the Southern District of Texas, reported [Locusmag.com](https://www.loкусmag.com) in early July. The RWA was unable to pay the hotel contracts for their annual conferences after membership plummeted following a series of high-profile controversies. The RWA owes about \$3 million to hotels, and almost \$75,000 to other creditors.

The main cause of the fiscal problems is a long-term contract RWA signed with Marriott Hotels to host their conferences in 2018. The pandemic, combined with declining membership, made those contracts untenable as conference attendance plunged, and the RWA was unable to renegotiate terms.

The RWA has suffered numerous public relations and organizational blows since 2019, with accusations of racism among the officers and membership, leading to the resignation of the leadership in 2020 and the retirement of the RITA Awards, which were rebranded as the Vivian Awards in honor of Vivian Stephens, the pioneering Black romance writer who founded the RWA in 1980. (One of the first Vivian Awards given in 2020 was rescinded after objections from the membership regarding problematic content in the winning title.) In the midst of the controversy, publishers dropped out of the conferences, and membership plunged from about 10,000 members to around 2,000 from 2019 to 2024.

Court filings by RWA president Mary Ann Jock blame the loss of members on “disputes concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues between some members of a prior RWA board and others in the larger romance writing community.”

## MARTIN LOVES POIGNANT ADDITION TO *HOUSE OF THE DRAGON*

by Cheryl Eddy, [gizmodo.com](https://www.gizmodo.com) 7-5-2024

*Game of Thrones* author George RR Martin of Santa Fe, whose *House Targaryen* history tome *Fire & Blood* is now hitting screens as HBO and Max's *House of the Dragon*, isn't directly involved in writing the series, which is now in its second season. But he's been watching, and so far he's really liking it – with one new addition that he loved so much, he wishes he'd thought of it himself.

If you're not caught up on *House of the Dragon* season two, which is about to unveil its fourth episode on Sunday, **SPOILERS** follow.

Fans of *Fire & Blood* all knew that Blood and Cheese – assassins hired by Daemon Targaryen to infiltrate the Red Keep – were going to pop up early in the show's second season. Daemon's instructions are to murder Aemond Targaryen, the Team Green young adult responsible for the death of Rhaenyra's son Luke in the season one finale. It's payback, trading “A Son for a Son,” as the season premiere episode title goes.

But when the ratcatcher (Cheese, played by Mark Stobart) and the swordsman (Blood, played by Sam C. Wilson) get inside the castle, they can't locate Aemond.

Instead, they grab the next in line to the throne: King Aegon II's son, just a toddler, and saw his little head off. It's grim, it's a PR disaster for Team Black, and it's yet another gruesome rung on the ladder toward all-out war in Westeros.

But there's a new character involved: Cheese's loyal dog. Cheese is not a nice guy, and he's certainly not always nice to his four-legged companion. But we see just how connected they are when – in the second episode, “Rhaenyra the Cruel” – Aegon orders all the ratcatchers employed by the crown to be publicly executed. Blood didn't know Cheese's name, you see, so the king figured he'd better just exterminate all of them to make sure he got the culprit. As ratcatcher-adjacent friends and family spot their loved ones dangling high above King's Landing, and react with anguished cries, we see one particularly sad face. A furry one.

In his glowing review of the first two episodes, posted on his Not a Blog, Martin gave a special shout-out to *House of the Dragon*'s writers for incorporating that new detail. “The show added a brand new character,” Martin wrote. “The dog. I am... ahem... not usually a fan of screenwriters adding characters to the source material when adapting a story. Especially not when the source material is mine. But that dog was brilliant. I was prepared to hate Cheese, but I hated him even more when he kicked that dog. And later, when the dog [sat] at his feet, gazing up... that damn near broke my heart. Such a little thing... such a little dog... but his presence, the few short moments he was on screen, gave the ratcatcher so much humanity. Human beings are such complex creatures. The silent presence of that dog reminded us that even the worst of men, the vile and the venal, can love and be loved.”

Martin also added: “I wish I'd thought of that dog. I didn't, but someone else did. I am glad of that.”

New episodes of *House of the Dragon* arrive Sundays on Max and HBO.

## ON THE CONVENTION FRONT: BUBONICON 55 JUST SIX WEEKS AWAY

by Craig Chrissinger, con chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico's annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 55th edition August 23-25 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). More than 40 authors, artists, scientists & fans will be participating in programming.

A Science Speaker is being pursued, hopefully focusing on the science history of atomic development in New Mexico because of the popularity of *Oppenheimer* and the several Academy Awards it won.

This year's convention features special guest talent from North Carolina, Washington, and New Mexico. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 55 are Washington novelist TJ Klune and North Carolina writer Mur Lafferty; Guest Artist is Dale Ray Deforest of Albuquerque; and Toastmaster Duo Ursula Vernon & Kevin Sonney come from North Carolina.

We also are happy to have with us (among others) Lynn Barker, John Barnes, Jeff Benham, Lou J. Berger,

Jon Black, Jeremy W. Brett, Yvonne Coats, Liz Danforth, Stephen R. Donaldson (*Saturday-Only: tentative*), J.L. Doty, Gordon Garb, Josh Gentry, Loretta Hall, Brian D. Hinson, Betsy James, Darynda Jones (*tentative*), Carolyn Kay, Chaz Kemp, Jeffe Kennedy, Rachael Kuintzle, Jane Lindsfold, Christopher Marsh, George RR Martin (*Saturday-Only*), Arkady Martine (*Saturday-Sunday only*), Jeremy Montoya, Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Chris Panatier, Benjamin Radford, Rebecca Roanhorse (*Saturday-Only*), Diana Rowland, Joan S. Saberhagen, Cassie Sanchez, Jon Sanchez, Vivian Shaw, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Jim Sorenson, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, John Sumrow, Lauren C. Teffeau, Ian Tregillis, Jessica Tucker, Sarena Ulibarri, Robert E. Vardeman, Carrie Vaughn (*Saturday-Sunday only*), Walter Jon Williams, and Connie & Courtney Willis (*tentative*).

At least \$500 from Friday's charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 55 profits will benefit the ENMU Williamson Library Collection, Roadrunner Food Bank, World Food Kitchen, American Red Cross, and possibly NM PBS.

Bubonicon 55 opens with Pre-Registered check-in 1:00-2:30 pm Friday the 23rd, with regular registration open at 3:00 pm; and goes almost nonstop through 5 pm that Sunday. The first programming is at 4 pm, the same time the Art Show opens. The Con Suite and Gaming open at 5 pm.

The theme for the weekend is "Fantasy Wildlife & Animal Companions (Dragons and Unicorns and Griffins, Oh My)." The five tracks of programming at the Marriott should be fairly full (we're working on the tentative schedule now), so don't be surprised if you're torn between attending two or three panels/readings at a time! And by the way, we again are using Carlsbad for the con office, so smaller program will be in the Library Room (next to the Art Show).

Two Programming Notes – Kevin Sonney will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the Costume Contest at 7:15 pm Saturday; with Jessica Coyle hosting the Green Slime Awards at halftime. Geneva Schult is organizing the costuming event, and has judges lined up. And the Charity Auction on Friday remains at the earlier time of 9:10 pm.

Don't forget about the hospitality suite– located on the Top Floor. The Con Suite will be serving individually wrapped snack items and canned drinks, and patrons will place orders at a counter. A Sunday Afternoon Tea is being considered, but no final decision has been made yet.

Gaming takes place in the large room by the Art Show and also on the 2nd Floor. The Dealers Room, which is full for 2024, is slightly larger as it has absorbed Salon G.

Art Show rules/forms are now online as a downloadable Zip file on the Bubonicon website. With the Silent Auction happening again, bidding on pieces goes until 12 Noon Sunday (unless you claim the Quick Sale Price). Plan ahead if you really want a specific art piece!

There will be a Dead Dog (post-con gathering) 7:30-11:30 pm in the hospitality suite, hosted by Eric Klammer, Mark Gillespie, Geneva Schult and Michelle Melendez. Again, mostly single-serve items will be on hand.

We need volunteer workers (gofers in con speak) to help us throughout the weekend (see separate blurb earlier

in this newsletter). If you can help, please email Suzanne Busch at [volunteers@bubonicon.com](mailto:volunteers@bubonicon.com), and/or come to the meeting Friday, August 16, in the Adult Education Room of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$48 if purchased by August 9. After that, you'll have to wait to pay \$55 at the door. Daily memberships are \$20 Friday, \$30 Saturday and \$15 Sunday. Youths 13-19 years old are \$28 for the whole weekend. Children under 13 years are free when accompanied by an adult.

There are two ways to pay: Send payment with the registration form to arrive by August 9 to Bubonicon Inc at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or use your PayPal account/Credit Card on our website (make sure to include all names for passes).

The Bubonicon special \$149 room rate (single-quad occupancy) is only guaranteed through 1:00 am Monday, August 5, so get your reservation now at 800-228-9290.

Info is available from [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com), by email at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com) or by calling our Google voicemail at (505) 559-0931.



## BOOK, MOVIE AND TV REVIEWS ROUND-UP

*Archangels of Funk* by Andrea Hairston, 2024 Tordotcom, hc \$29.99, 384 pages.  
Review by David Paterick

What do you get when you have a master coder, an African spirit (or is he an alien or trans-dimensional being), a witch dog, a cybernetically enhanced dog, AI bots, ghosts and a cast of side characters? Andrea Hairston's *Archangels of Funk*.

*AoF* takes place in a near future, post "Water War" western Massachusetts over the course of four days. Cinnamon Jones is a genius coder who created an AI program for a company which fired her when the program didn't deliver. She managed to smuggle the tech out and built AI "Circus Bots" with personalities based on people she knew.

The book happens several years later as Cinnamon is living on a farm and is preparing an annual festival she has managed for several years. The Archangels of Funk are the main women involved with the festival. About a third of the way through, characters from her past start showing up with the intent of stealing her tech or maybe enlisting her to help finish what she started.

It all sounds like the ingredients for a truly wild ride, but in the end, it doesn't quite add up. I found it a slow read. If not for offering to read and write this review, I



don't think I would have made it past the first 60 or so pages. That being said, I am glad I finished the book and would recommend it. The author writes beautifully and the world she has created is compelling.

There are well-developed characters (especially the dogs, but then I am a dog person) and interesting ideas. There is something about AoF that as I write this review and after saying it was a slow read, has me wanting to reread it and hope it gets picked up for a miniseries.

The proof edition is 368 pages long, but in 8-point font which probably contributed to the slow read for these old eyes. I hope the published edition uses a larger font although it would probably approach 500 pages.

Favorite line from the book is a slogan on a t-shirt, "We're mostly space and the force to hold it all together."

***Unexploded Remnants* by Elaine Gallagher, 2024 Tor-dotcom, tp \$16.99, 111 pages.**

**Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

When Alice, the last human in the galaxy, finds an ancient network core in an antiquarian's stall on a trading world surrounded by wormhole gates, she gets more than she bargained for. She thinks the tube with its swirling pattern of intense colors might be part of a larger system – and thus worth money. Soon, though, she is being chased through stargates and worlds, and herded by the militaristic Delosi and various agents they've paid off.

Using the data slate tool she calls "Bugs," Alice discovers what first appears to be an A.I. personality in the cylinder but over time she realizes it is an uploaded personality acting as the conscience for an annihilation device from a long-ago galactic war. No wonder people want the device she names "Gunn."

Since *Unexploded Remnants* is a very short novella with only one human character, Elaine Gallagher throws many potentially interesting worlds at the reader but has little time to explore them. There is a lot of world-building here, but it barely touched on as Alice races across the galaxy. Alice is an interesting character and through her we see what happened to the rest of the human race. Still, she is not examined in a way a longer tome would allow. This story easily could have been longer.

Light and breezy, *Unexploded Remnants* races along at a fast pace. It's a quick read, and definitely worth checking out. Gallagher's first published effort shows promise for future tales, and it will be interesting to see what she does next. Recommended.

***The Lazarus Project* (originally titled *Extinction*), a British science fiction series on TNT (USA premiere June 2023), created by Joe Barton, starring Paapa Essiedu, Anjali Mohindra, Rudi Dharmalingam, Charly Clive, and Caroline Quentin. Season 1 composed of 8 episodes, all originally released June 2022. Season 2, again 8 episodes, released November 2023.**

**Review by Becky C. Davis**

I watched two-thirds of *The Lazarus Project* on TNT via streaming in my cable service before giving up. It has a nice concept (recursive time travel with a mystery of who is messing with time travel to make it recursive), but gets buried in characters and plot complications.

George (Paapa Essiedu), a nice guy out looking for a

loan, loves a girl, Sarah (Charly Clive). They are living a happy cohabiting life until December 2022, when George is thrown back to July 1, 2022. Befuddled, he proceeds to live the George/Sarah life again, only to be tossed back to July 1 again. Sarah does not seem to notice. As he is starting out on recurse #3, he is met by an intriguing lady, Archie (Anjali Mohindra), who tells him he is one of only .000001% of people with a mutant gene who recognize that the recursion occurs, and introduces him to the top-secret Lazarus Project. This Project was set up to prevent apocalyptic events – and make small human and event changes to prevent an apocalypse, using the recursions. He joins the Project to help its goals.

Then, in one recursion, Sarah gets killed, too close to the time of the reset date, and the Project smooths out events so there should not be a need for a reset. George bolts from the Project and seeks ways to regain a living Sarah. He finally settles on obtaining a small nuclear warhead and detonating it to get the Russians and Americans to start a big war. The Lazarus Project does a reset and starts tweaking people and events to prevent the cataclysm.

But in the meantime, a new assembly of scientists has surfaced with their own Lazarus Project. This project has unintentionally created a black hole vortex between the two projects, causing a self-triggering endless three-week time loop, which is gradually shrinking down in time.

By Season 2, George, Archie, team lead Elizabeth Wesley, Sarah (recovered again) and a cast of several more are trying to locate the other scientists in place and time to either co-opt them to their own project or kill them. Events get messy and muddled as people and their events stumble over each other. At that point, I gave up on the series as there was too much jumping around, capturing (seemingly) innocent smaller players, and also too much killing (and repeat killing).

TNT chose to drop the series at the beginning of 2024, so there are only the two seasons for your enjoyment. If you want to examine recursive time travel and puzzle out whether dueling time programs might or might not cancel each other out, go and enjoy this short series.

## ***ASFS MEETING REPORTS —*** **APRIL 2024: SOLAR ECLIPSE TALK**

Twenty-nine people came to the one-week late meeting to hear Jim Greenhouse, Space Science Director at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, talk on an "Eclipse Double Header in the American League."

Greenhouse said the fact the Earth has eclipses is a "big coincidence. The Sun is four hundred times bigger and four hundred times farther from Earth. To have an Eclipse, those things have to be just right."

Part of his presentation was from talks he's given to groups since early 2023, so he reminded people of eye damage that can result if only "one percent of the sun's surface is stared at directly." Talking about ways to observe an Eclipse, he said that gaps in leaves can act like pinhole projectors – and so can the gaps between a person's fingers. "A Shade 14 welder's glass also works for looking at the Sun," he added.

Asked what was so special about the October 2023 Eclipse in New Mexico, Greenhouse remarked, "It happened during the final Saturday of the Balloon Fiesta, and the path centered over the Albuquerque Ballon Park. One hundred thousand people were at Fiesta that morning."

The April 2024 Eclipse went through Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Indianapolis, Toledo, Cleveland, Montreal and Buffalo.

During the Solar Totality, Greenhouse said you can see the Sun's corona, prominences, polar plumes, coronal loops, peaks and flares, and sun spots. "No one I know saw the comet," he noted. "It was supposed to be magnitude five. We did see Venus and Jupiter."

Next up, most of North America will see a Total Lunar Eclipse on March 14, 2025.

## MAY 2024: BENHAM ON COMICS

Jeff Benham of 7000 BC gave a presentation on "Truth, Justice, and the American: How Comics Animate Culture" to 30 people at ASFS. "I'm looking at the stories told in comics, and how they have evolved since Superman appeared in 1938 in *Action Comics* Number One," he said.

"In the first Superman story, there are no supervillains, and he's dealing with stuff that affects the ordinary person," Benham stated. "He couldn't fight in World War Two or it would be over in two minutes. Captain America could fight Hitler, but that's more wish-fulfillment and doing broad generalizations."

Benham said there were romance comics, western comics, horror comics (EC, especially) and shock-suspense stories (again, EC).

"In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Marvel had come back into the comics field," he noted. "Stories became more about the hero's journey with Spider-Man, Thor and Captain America. Spider-Man really was dealing with continuity. But probably the best example of the hero's journey is the X-Men. It had its own mythology, and dealt with continuity and social issues. At the same time, underground comics were coming into the collective consciousness. They were created for social commentary, and many were memoirs."

Looking back, Benham noted the first comic book was *Famous Funnies*, created by Max Gaines in 1933. A quarter of a million copies of the first issue were distributed. "The first Superman comic actually was made in 1933, but it took five years to sell it and get it published," he said. "Max Gaines actually helped sell Superman. And generally, *The Yellow Kid* is considered the first modern-day comic, starting in 1896."

Benham also touched on Jack Kirby's career, the 1970 strike by artists for decent wages (publishers hired artists from the Philippines at a lower cost in response), Steve Gerber and his popular creation, *Howard the Duck*, Curt Swan as the only artist to do more comics than Kirby, Harvey Kurtzman and *Frontline Combat*, the creation of the letters page at Marvel to connect to fans, Gloria Steinem wanting to put Wonder Woman on the cover of the first *Ms. Magazine*, the unionization of administrators at Image Comics, Wonder Woman becoming a honorary ambassador "for the empowerment of women and girls"

for the United Nations in 2016, Bill Willingham of the *Fables* comic series owning the intellectual property to the series, and Kirby and wife filing a lawsuit shortly before his death to get back his artwork.

Beyond the comics, Benham talked about how Captain America in 1940 was there to "have you look at the enemy and not see a human any more – plus sell war bonds. In general, he was supposed to help the war effort. And Superman did a radio story on the KKK in conjunction with the FBI to help bring forth witnesses to help prosecution."

## JUNE 2024: SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

Twenty-nine people were on hand for the annual ASFS Summer Movie Night. This year, we watched a Bugs Bunny/Wile Coyote short, *Operation: Rabbit*, before the main feature – *The Monster of Piedras Blancas*, a 1959 B&W monster movie based around a lighthouse and a beach.

*Piedras Blancas*, which stars Les Tremayne, John Harmon and Jeanne Carmen, was heavily influenced by *Creature From the Black Lagoon*. In fact, producer Jack Kevan had supervised the manufacture of the Gill-man suit and worked on *Mole People* costumes at Universal.

As a palate cleanser, we finished the evening with a Bugs Bunny short, *Roman Legion-Hare*.

## EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

- **MORE THAN HALF OF 2024 IS** over now, and it seems like that happened in two winks of the eye. Some parts were slow, but overall the year is racing by. Where has it gone? Are we in some weird time warp? Hard to believe we hit 100F four times in June, but so far July hasn't been quite as hot (thanks to the monsoon rains so far). New Mexico has been pretty lucky, other than flooding on wildfire burn scars to the north and south. Crossing fingers!

- **WITH SUMMER RERUNS HERE**, we've been watching *Reservation Dogs* (so, so good) and *Raising Hope* on Hulu, and *Jim Henson: Idea Man* on Disney+ (recommended). We need to watch *Star Wars: The Acolyte*, and are looking forward to *Agatha All Along*. We did see (mostly at the Guild Cinema) *Late Night with the Devil* (interesting horror film), *The American Society of Magical Negroes*, *Sasquatch Sunset* (pretty lame "nature" film with no narrative), *Queen of the Deuce*, *Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama* (as cheesy as I remembered), *My Animal* (queer werewolf lost-love story that left a lot of questions), and *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* (very entertaining, spectacular cinematography). Of course, we plan to see *Despicable Me 4*, *Deadpool & Wolverine*, *Borderlands*, and *The Wild Robot*.

- **LOOKING FORWARD TO** the Southwest Comic Book & Creator Showcase on July 20-21 at the Shrine Center on Zuni SE between San Pedro & Louisiana. A ton of comic creators will be there - including ABQ's Andy Kuhn, Aaron Campbell, Dale Ray Deforest, Mark Fenton and Peter Ziomek - plus many comic book dealers, food trucks, giveaways, a TARDIS and the A-Team van. Just \$1.00 to get in!

- **HARD TO BELIEVE BUBONICON 55** will be here in just six weeks. Yikes! Still so much to do - now and at the con...

- **OUT OF ROOM!** Many thanks to David P & Becky D for reviews. Next *ASFacts* will be in October - Submissions are needed! Be well & see you at Bubonicon 55. -- Craig C

## **SOUTHWEST COMIC BOOK & CREATOR SHOWCASE**

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6600 Zuni Rd SE , Albuquerque, NM**

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**Have A Nice Summer,  
Dudes & Dudettes!**



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